

Serial No.: 10/707,582
Attorney Docket No.: F-629

Patent

Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for managing the annotation of a document comprising:
 - obtaining an original document;
 - making an original electronic version of the document available to an annotation manager system;
 - associating the original electronic version of the document with digital paper;
 - ~~printing a plurality of hardcopies of the original electronic version of the document on the associated digital paper;~~
 - ~~distributing the hardcopies to a plurality of team members;~~
 - ~~receiving a plurality of annotations from the team members;~~
 - receiving a plurality of annotations from a plurality of team members each using a hardcopy of the original electronic version of the document that was printed on the associated digital paper;
 - receiving annotation author identification data for identifying associating each of the plurality of annotations with the team member who created the annotation;
 - obtaining hierarchal permission data for each team member;
 - determining for each annotation if such annotation is an authorized annotation using the hierarchal permission data;

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associating each authorized annotation with a location in the original electronic version of the document; and

creating a new annotated version of the original electronic version of the document incorporating the authorized annotations.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: incorporating annotation metadata into the new annotated version.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein, the metadata includes a time and date associated with each annotation.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein, the metadata includes a user identification for each annotation.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, further including:
anchoring at least one of the annotations to a paragraph of the original electronic version of the document.

6. (Canceled).

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
parsing the annotations for at least one editing ~~commands~~ command.

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8. (original) The method of claim 7, further including:
determining an authorization level for the at least one editing command; and
if the authorization level for the at least one editing command is below an
authorization threshold, converting the at least one editing command into an
annotation.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein, the at least one
editing command is a plurality of editing commands received from a plurality of team
members; and further including:
prioritizing the editing commands using an authorization level associated with
at least one of the team members.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, further including:
converting ~~nonpriority~~ non-priority editing commands into annotations.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein, the associating the
original electronic version of the document with digital paper further comprises:
scanning a digital pattern on each copy of the digital paper before printing a plurality
of hardcopies and associating the plurality of hardcopies with the original electronic
version of the document in a many to one association.

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12. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

comparing the annotation time metadata against a reviewer profile, wherein the reviewer profile includes relative and/or absolute expected annotation time data.

13. (currently amended) A system for managing the annotation of a document comprising:

means for obtaining an original document;

means for making an original electronic version of the document available to an annotation manager system;

means for associating the original electronic version of the document with digital paper;

~~means for printing a plurality of hardcopies of the original electronic version of the document on the associated digital paper;~~

~~means for distributing the hardcopies to a plurality of team members;~~

~~means for receiving a plurality of annotations from the team members;~~

receiving a plurality of annotations from a plurality of team members each using a hardcopy of the original electronic version of the document that was printed on the associated digital paper;

receiving annotation author identification data for identifying associating each of the plurality of annotations with the team member who created the annotation;

means for obtaining hierarchal permission data for each team member;

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means determining for each annotation if such annotation is an authorized annotation using the hierarchal permission data;

means for associating each authorized annotation with a location in the original electronic version of the document; and

means for creating a new annotated version of the original electronic version of the document incorporating the authorized annotations.

14. (original) The system of claim 13, further comprising:

means for incorporating annotation metadata into the new annotated version.

15. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein, the metadata includes a time and date associated with each annotation.

16. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein, the metadata includes a user identification for each annotation.

17. (original) The system of claim 13, further including:

means for anchoring at least one of the annotations to a paragraph of the original electronic version of the document.

18. (original) The system of claim 13, further comprising:

means for parsing the annotations for at least one editing commands.

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19. (original) The system of claim 18, further including:
means for determining an authorization level for the at least one editing command; and
means for determining if the authorization level for the at least one editing command is below an authorization threshold.

20. (currently amended) The system of claim 19, further including:
means for converting ~~non-priority~~ non-priority editing commands into annotations.

21. (New) A method for managing the annotation of a document comprising:
obtaining an original document;
making an original electronic version of the document available to an annotation manager system;
associating the original electronic version of the document with digital paper;
receiving a plurality of annotations from a plurality of team members each using a hardcopy of the original electronic version of the document that was printed on the associated digital paper;
receiving annotation author identification data for identifying associating each of the plurality of annotations with the team member who created the annotation;
associating each annotation with a location in the original electronic version of the document;
obtaining hierarchal priority data for the team members;

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determining if any two of the annotations overlap, and if so, selecting one of the two overlapping annotations using the hierarchal data;

creating a new annotated version of the original electronic version of the document incorporating the non-overlapping annotations and the selected overlapping annotations.